

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 38

January 24, 1995, 4:24 p.m.
Page S-1419 Temp. Record

UNFUNDED MANDATES/CPI Calculation

SUBJECT: Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995 . . . S. 1. Kempthorne motion to table the Dorgan amendment No. 179.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 52-44

SYNOPSIS: Pertinent votes on this legislation include Nos. 15-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-61.

As reported by the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Budget Committee, S. 1, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995, will create 2 majority (51-vote) points of order in the Senate. The first will lie against the consideration of a bill or joint resolution reported by an authorizing committee if it contains mandates and if Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimates on those mandates are unavailable. The second point of order will lie against the consideration of a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that will cause the total cost of unfunded intergovernmental mandates in the legislation to exceed \$50 million.

The Dorgan amendment would express the sense of the Senate that a precipitous change in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that would result in an increase in income taxes and a decrease in Social Security benefits is not appropriate; and that any change in the calculation of the CPI should result from thoughtful study and analysis and should be a result of a consensus reached by the experts, not pressure exerted by politicians.

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Kempthorne moved to table the Dorgan amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

No arguments were expressed in favor of the motion to table.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

About a week ago the Chairman of the Federal Reserve testified before Congress that he thought that the CPI overstated inflation

(See other side)

YEAS (52)		NAYS (44)		NOT VOTING (3)	
Republicans (52 or 100%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (44 or 100%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (2)
Abraham	Hutchison	Akaka	Inouye	Simpson- ^{4PY}	Heflin- ² Kennedy- ^{4AN}
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Baucus	Johnston		
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Kerrey		
Bond	Kassebaum	Bingaman	Kerry		
Brown	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kohl		
Burns	Kyl	Breaux	Lautenberg		
Chafee	Lott	Bryan	Leahy		
Coats	Lugar	Bumpers	Levin		
Cochran	Mack	Byrd	Lieberman		
Cohen	McCain	Campbell	Mikulski		
Coverdell	McConnell	Conrad	Moseley-Braun		
Craig	Murkowski	Daschle	Moynihan		
D'Amato	Nickles	Dodd	Murray		
DeWine	Packwood	Dorgan	Nunn		
Dole	Pressler	Exon	Pell		
Domenici	Roth	Feingold	Pryor		
Faircloth	Santorum	Feinstein	Reid		
Frist	Shelby	Ford	Robb		
Gorton	Smith	Glenn	Rockefeller		
Gramm	Snowe	Graham	Sarbanes		
Grams	Specter	Harkin	Simon		
Grassley	Stevens	Hollings	Wellstone		
Gregg	Thomas				
Hatch	Thompson				
Hatfield	Thurmond				
Helms	Warner				

LIVE PAIRS(1):
PRESENT AND
GIVING: RECEIVING:
Bradley (PN) Simpson (PY)

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:
1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:
AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

by 1 percent to 1.5 percent. Many Members of Congress then opined that the Bureau of Labor Statistics should change the way it does its estimates. One Member even noted that Congress may eliminate the Bureau if it does not change its methods. In our opinion, any precipitous action to change inflation estimates, even if those estimates are incorrect, should be made with care. For example, a reduction in the cost of living adjustment (COLA) in Social Security would result if more accurate estimates were made. Do our colleagues really wish to block up to 1.5 percent of our annual inflation adjustment for Social Security, whether or not that 1.5 percent is being given due to a technical mistake? This issue is very sensitive, and should be treated accordingly. Any changes that are made should only be made by experts after careful consideration, not by elected Members of Congress acting on their own. If our colleagues agree, they will join us in opposing this motion to table.